Weekly COVID-19 Update — Jan. 21, 2022: DPH Reports Promising COVID-19 Data Trends

DOVER, DE (Jan. 21, 2022) — The Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) is providing an update on the most recent statistics related to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Delaware, as of Thursday, Jan 20, 2022. DPH reports a welcomed decrease in new positive cases and hospitalizations over the last week, however, both cases and hospitalizations remain elevated statewide.

While there has been a decline in new positive cases and hospitalizations in the past week, it is important that Delawareans take important steps to keep themselves and others safe to maintain positive new data trends:

- Get vaccinated and boosted. COVID-19 vaccines continue to offer the best protection against infection, hospitalization, and death.
- Wear a well-fitting mask in public and when around others outside of your household. Make sure your mask fits properly over your nose and mouth. [Review the face covering guidance from DPH](#).
- Stay home if you have symptoms or if you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. Avoid non-essential in-person social gatherings.
- Go to the emergency room if you have a true emergency, but do not go to the ER only for a COVID-19 test. Our hospitals are strained, and emergency departments need to be preserved for life-threatening emergencies.

You should get tested:

- If you have symptoms, especially if unvaccinated or have an underlying health condition.
- If you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. You should get tested 5 days after exposure if possible.
- If you are unvaccinated (you should get tested once a week).

COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations:

- Total positive cases since March 11, 2020: 236,022
- 7-day average of new positive cases: 2,006.6, down from 3,187.6 last week.
- 7-day average for the percentage of total positive tests: 27.2%, down from 31% last week
- Hospitalizations: 606, a decrease of 123 from last week; critically ill: 64, a decrease of 5 from last week
- Total COVID-19 deaths: 2,457
- Total COVID-19 deaths reported since last week: 61 including 21 from a review of vital statistic records

COVID-19 Vaccinations:

- Total number of doses administered in Delaware: 1,620,971
- Percentage of Delawareans 5+ who received at least one dose (CDC data) 84.2%
- Percentage of Delawareans 12+ who have received at least one dose (CDC data): 89.5%
- Percentage of Delawareans 18+ who received at least one dose (CDC data): 91.5%
- Percent of Delawareans who are fully vaccinated (CDC data): 65.7%

All qualifying Delawareans should get vaccinated. Individuals who qualify for a booster dose should get one as soon as possible. For the latest information on the COVID-19 vaccine in Delaware, visit de.gov/getmyvaccine. For information on boosters, visit de.gov/boosters. Delaware's latest COVID-19

vaccination statistics can be found under the Vaccine Tracker dashboard at de.gov/healthycommunity.

COVID-19 Case Vaccination Status Report:

The following reports capture a weekly breakdown of vaccination status for cases, deaths, and hospitalizations for the time frame for Jan.10 – Jan.16.

Weekly Overview (1/10/22- 1/16/22)	
Non-boosted Cases	
Total Non-Boosted Cases	16657
Total Cases	18910
Percent of Non-boosted cases	**88.1%**
Non-boosted Hospitalized Cases	
Total Non-boosted Hospitalized cases	390
Total Hospitalized Cases	432
Percent of Non-boosted hospitalized Cases	**90.3%**

Weekly Overview (1/10/22- 1/16/22)	
Unvaccinated Cases	
Total Unvaccinated / Partially Vaccinated Cases	10663
Total Cases	18910
Percent of Unvaccinated / Partially Vaccinated Cases	**56%**
Hospitalizations	
Unvaccinated / Partially Vaccinated Hospitalized Cases	263
Total Hospitalized Cases	432
Percent of Unvaccinated / Partially Vaccinated Hospitalized Cases	**61%**
Deaths	
Unvaccinated / Partially Vaccinated COVID-19 Deaths	23

Total COVID-19 Deaths	35
Percent of Unvaccinated / Partially Vaccinated COVID-19 Deaths	**66%**

Breakthrough Cases (cumulative since vaccinations began):

- Total breakthrough cases: 16,469, or 2.84% of fully vaccinated individuals
- Total breakthrough hospitalizations: 197
- Total breakthrough deaths: 176

A breakthrough case is defined as testing positive for COVID-19 after an individual has been fully vaccinated for two weeks or more.

*Please note, these data may be updated as additional information is received.

COVID-19 Variant Cases in Delaware:

Of the samples collected during the week of Dec. 31 – Jan. 6, the Omicron variant represented 94.5% of cases sequenced for a variant of concern, variant of interest, or variant being monitored. The remaining 5.5% of sequenced cases were identified as Delta.

As a reminder, DPH is now providing variant data based on sample collection date rather than sequencing date, due to the length of time between sample collection (when a person is tested) and when samples are sequenced by laboratories, which can be lagged by two weeks or longer. This will more accurately reflect the proportion of specific variants that

are circulating in the community at various points in time.

The Delaware Public Health Laboratory and other laboratories regularly monitor for the presence of COVID-19 variants, including Delta and Omicron, through routine genomic sequencing of test specimens. Genome sequencing is a public health surveillance tool used to monitor the prevalence of COVID-19 variants; it is not used to diagnose individuals with a specific strain of COVID-19, as treatment recommendations do not differ based on variant strains. COVID-19 tests identify current infection of COVID-19, but do not identify a specific variant of the virus the individual might have.

Long-term Care Statistics:

As of Thursday, Jan. 20, there have been a total of 3,040 positive COVID-19 cases involving long-term care residents, and 892 residents of Delaware long-term care facilities have died from complications related to COVID-19.

Flu Update:

There were 15 laboratory-confirmed cases reported the week of Jan. 9 – Jan. 15. As of Jan. 15, 2022, the most recent date for which flu statistics are available, there have been 595 laboratory-confirmed cases for the current season. The cases involved 414 individuals from New Castle County, 77 from Kent County and 104 from Sussex County. This number reflects only the number of lab-confirmed cases; actual number of cases circulating statewide is likely higher as not all people with the flu seek treatment, and many cases are diagnosed through rapid test kits in a provider's office versus a lab.

All individuals 6 months and older are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated against the flu if they haven't already. Flu vaccines are available at pharmacies (including those in grocery stores), participating medical provider offices, Federally Qualified Health Centers (for their patients), as well as Division of Public Health clinics. DPH is also

advising the public that the flu vaccine can be administered at the same time as the COVID-19 vaccine.

For the latest information on the flu in Delaware, visit flu.delaware.gov.

Resources:

Individuals with general questions about COVID-19 should call Delaware 2-1-1, individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing can text their ZIP code to 898-211, or email delaware211@uwde.org. Hours of operation are:

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Medically related questions regarding testing, symptoms, and health-related guidance can be submitted by email at DPHCall@delaware.gov.

Delawareans 18 or older are encouraged to download COVID Alert DE, Delaware's free exposure notification app to help protect your neighbors while ensuring your privacy. Download on the Apple Store or Google Play.

DPH will continue to update the public as more information becomes available. For the latest on Delaware's response, go to de.gov/coronavirus.

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Anyone who is deaf, hard of hearing, Deaf-Blind or speech disabled can contact DPH by dialing 711 first using specialized devices (i.e., TTY, TeleBraille, voice

devices). The 711 service is free and to learn more about how it works, please visit delawarerelay.com.

The Delaware Department of Health and Social Services is committed to improving the quality of the lives of Delaware's citizens by promoting health and well-being, fostering self-sufficiency, and protecting vulnerable populations.